UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.151/PC/97
13 February 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Plenary session
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The fourth session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development marks the culmination of nearly two years of preparatory work which commenced with the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee in March 1990 in New York. The work of the Preparatory Committee has progressed steadily from an initial discussion of organizational matters to the identification in more precise terms of the issues before the Conference at the first substantive session (Nairobi, 6-31 August 1991), followed by an in-depth discussion of issues and possible approaches to action at the second substantive session (Geneva, 18 March-5 April 1991). At the third session (Geneva, 12 August-4 September 1991), the Preparatory Committee began discussing the substantive outputs of the Conference. Significant progress was made at the third session on negotiating the contents of Agenda 21 with regard to the sectoral issues considered in Working Groups I and II. The Preparatory Committee agreed on a basic structure for the presentation of the programme of action in the form of

---

* A/CONF.151/96.

Agenda 21 and identified the additional work required for further consideration of these issues. With regard to the cross-sectoral issues and the Earth Charter/Rio de Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, the discussions did not progress as far.

2. The principal task at the fourth and final session of the Preparatory Committee is the finalization of the proposals to be placed before the Conference for approval in June 1992. The Preparatory Committee has before it a compendium of proposals with regard to the Earth Charter, a similar compendium with regard to institutional proposals, specific proposals for action in all sectoral and cross-sectoral areas in the format for Agenda 21 specified by the Preparatory Committee and a background paper on finance. The proposals for Agenda 21 are based on the outcome of the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the specific instructions with regard to elaboration given at that session. They include a discussion of the means required for implementing the proposed activities in each area. A critically important component of these means is requirements for financing. These are based on preliminary estimates of costs in virtually all areas and cannot be regarded as constituting a budget. But it is hoped that these estimates will provide a guide for further discussion of the issue of financial resources. The Preparatory Committee also has before it a compilation of proposals received from countries with regard to different items in the agenda.

3. The tasks before the Preparatory Committee are clearly very substantial, but it is hoped that the format and content of the documentation provided will facilitate the process of arriving at an agreement on the proposals which should go before the Conference in June 1992. The secretariat hopes to provide a guide to Agenda 21 in order to highlight linkages and structure.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

A. Work process

4. The principal task before the secretariat after the third session of the Preparatory Committee was the elaboration of Agenda 21 in the format specified by the Preparatory Committee. A major exercise in costing was required in the large number of programme areas which were under consideration. The cross-sectoral issues also had to be elaborated in the form of Agenda 21 proposals. The excellent support received by the secretariat from its partners in the United Nations system and elsewhere enabled it to complete this task. The working parties set up by the secretariat helped to bring to bear a wide range of expert opinion upon the formulation of Agenda 21. The Secretariat is deeply grateful to the members of the working parties and its partners in the United Nations system and elsewhere for the support that it has received.

5. A major event in the work process of the secretariat was The Hague Symposium on Sustainable Development: From Concept to Action, which was held from 25 to 27 November. This Symposium was organized by the secretariat in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the

Government of the Netherlands. The secretariat is deeply grateful to them for the continuous support that they extended to the process which led up to The Hague Symposium. The Symposium was chaired by Mr. Jan Pronk, Minister for Development Cooperation of the Government of the Netherlands, and Mr. Mahbub Ul-Haq, Special Adviser to the Administrator of UNDP. About 40 experts, drawn from all parts of the world and representing a variety of disciplines, discussed in specific terms the way in which the concept of sustainable development could be translated into operational policies and programmes. The discussions were based on research papers commissioned by the secretariat and a synthesis paper prepared by Ignacy Sachs of the Centre des Hautes Etudes of Paris. The synthesis paper and the statement which emerged from the Symposium are being made available to the Preparatory Committee for its information.

6. Several other events organized by the Conference secretariat, or in close collaboration with it, have also contributed greatly to the formulation and refinement of Agenda 21. The International Council of Scientific Unions and several other organizations joined together in arranging a major conference to define a science agenda for environment and development for the twenty-first century. This conference was held in Vienna from 25 to 29 November 1991 and brought together more than 200 scientists. The statement which emerged from the conference is available to the Preparatory Committee for information.

7. Another major event was the Workshop on the Applications of Biotechnology, organized by the secretariat and held in New Delhi from 23 to 25 October 1991. This workshop helped to shape the proposals contained in Agenda 21 for the biotechnology component.

8. In order to examine the intellectual property aspects of the transfer of environmentally sound technology, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) collaborated with the Conference secretariat in organizing a workshop in Geneva from 21 to 22 October 1991. This workshop was attended by about 16 experts, mainly from developing countries. The outcome of the workshop is also available to the Preparatory Committee for information.

9. In October 1991 the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) organized a major meeting on environmentally sustainable industrial development in Copenhagen. This meeting helped to distil what could be described as an industry agenda for sustainable development. The outcome of the conference is also available to the Preparatory Committee for information.

B. Regional activities

10. A report to the Preparatory Committee at its third session outlined the regional activities undertaken. Regional preparations have continued. The following is a brief update of events or actions taken after the third session.

11. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) supported the Arab Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development, held at Cairo from 10 to 12 September 1991. The report of ESCWA on the Arab Ministerial

Conference has been issued in document A/CONF.151/PC/99. The areas of strategic action for the 1992 Conference, as determined by the Arab Ministerial Conference, covered the need for financial resources, the role of national and international institutions, international treaties and technology transfer, the challenges posed by population growth, the effect of war, building of environmental awareness, strengthening environmental legislation and rationalizing the use of energy.

12. The second African Regional Preparatory Conference on Environment and Development was held at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 11 to 14 November 1991. The meeting was sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity, African Development Bank, UNDP/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference secretariat. It concluded successfully after consolidating and adopting the African Common Position on Environment and Development. From the documentation it is clear that Africa attaches great importance to the Conference and its expectations are high. The African Common Position paper makes it clear that poverty remains the major reason for the challenges that sustainable development raises. Other important obstacles are the foreign debt burden, weak commodity trade and unsatisfactory and poor transfer of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies.

13. The Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) countries have also submitted a report which highlights the need for the countries concerned to make a series of simultaneous and linked demographic, economic, technological, social, participatory and institutional transitions in order to put them securely on a sustainable development path.

14. The Pacific island developing countries held a workshop in Vanuatu, from 21 to 23 October, on the South Pacific preparations for the Conference. Their input will highlight the special nature of this vast region and the need to support the inhabitants of the numerous small island countries in their role as custodians of the largest ocean on Earth.

15. Preparations are also under way between the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, although no report had been received by the secretariat as of January 1991.

16. Document A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.26 elaborates further the secretariat's view concerning regional cooperation requirements. The regional commissions of the United Nations have also separately provided information about their potential role in implementing Agenda 21.

C. National preparation and reports

17. The official deadline for submission of national reports was 31 July 1991. Regretfully only 15 countries submitted reports in final or final-draft form by that date. The secretariat extended the deadline unofficially to the end of October. Owing to documentation deadlines and limitations on staff resources, the secretariat subsequently decided on a

cut-off date of 21 November for all national reports. By that date the secretariat had received 71 national reports and two subregional reports, totalling approximately 11,000 pages. Some 45 per cent of the developing countries as a whole submitted national reports, 55 per cent of the least developed countries, 41 per cent of the industrialized countries and 70 per cent of the former Central and Eastern European centrally planned economies. These reports form the basis for a brief synthesis report entitled "Overview of national reports" (A/CONF.151/PC/98).

18. From the reports it is clear that most Governments have gone to great lengths in having their reports prepared and, in submitting their reports, a number of Governments, either officially or unofficially, have expressed to the secretariat their particular enthusiasm about the preparatory process, which in many countries, has included a number of non-governmental entities such as industry and women's groups, universities and the like. This approach was suggested by the Preparatory Committee in its guidelines, and it is gratifying that this kind of consultative process has surrounded many of the national level preparations. Governments have quite often arranged seminars and public information meetings, and these have been useful tools at this stage of the awareness-building process.

19. The presence of a UNDP/UNCED resident representative, supported financially, appears to have greatly expedited the process in developing countries. Interestingly a number of developed countries have seen delays in the report preparations, resulting from an exhaustive, and sometimes perhaps unexpected, consultative process.

20. Needless to say, the time given for the analysis of national reports has been far too short and the secretariat will continue to receive and review national reports up until the Conference. The total number of reports, according to information given to the secretariat, should exceed 100, totalling in the order of 20,000 pages. This vast amount of information, as well as the processes that have gone into the preparation of the reports, should be preserved and strengthened in an appropriate manner.

D. External relations

1. Cooperation with United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations

21. The effective pattern of cooperation which has been set in train within the United Nations system to prepare for the Conference has considerably strengthened the efforts of the secretariat in putting together the extensive documentation required for the final session of the Preparatory Committee. The continuing and close involvement of United Nations organizations, programmes and bodies has been as before, exceptionally supportive.

22. System-wide preparations for the Conference figured prominently on the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in October 1991 and April 1992 and two sessions of the Designated Officials on Environmental

Matters in September 1991 and February 1992. The secretariat closely followed the discussions at meetings of the governing bodies of various United Nations and related organizations, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (end of 1991), the International Atomic Energy Agency (September), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (October/November) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (November), as well as the 10th World Forestry Congress (September), organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the UNIDO international meeting on ecologically sustainable industrial development (October).

23. The inter-sessional period was marked by other intergovernmental meetings which had an important bearing on and provided guidance and input to the Conference preparations. These included the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Harare (October), the Second African Regional Preparatory Conference on Environment and Development in Abidjan, the Francophone summit in Paris, both in November 1991, the ministerial session of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in December, the summit meeting of the Islamic States, the meeting of Environmental Ministers of the developing countries, in Malaysia in April, and others. Most were attended by the Secretary-General of the Conference or his representatives. These meetings, as well as official visits made by the Secretary-General of the Conference at the invitation of a number of Governments, have benefited considerably the substantial work carried out by the secretariat.

24. The secretariat maintained close working relationships with the Permanent Missions in Geneva, New York and Nairobi through regular briefings and other contacts, with the New York office assuming a larger role before the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee.

2. Non-governmental organizations

Youth involvement

25. Some youth ambassadors have been nominated, who are in charge of supporting the Secretary-General in disseminating information to the younger generation and raising the awareness of decision makers on the main issues of concern in this important sector of society. The secretariat is actively involved in numerous youth initiatives for the Conference, particularly the World Youth Forum to be held in Costa Rica in March 1992. A coordinated effort is under way to incorporate the input and recommendations of youth to the Conference.

Participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process

26. An increasing number of non-governmental organizations from all regions are participating in the discussion process leading to the Conference. The number of accredited non-governmental organizations has grown from 350 to over 1,000. The proportion from the South has reached nearly 40 per cent of the total.

27. Important documents have been produced as a result of regional and global conferences and technical work. Indigenous peoples and women, scientists, professional groups and non-governmental organizations concerned with the environment and development have sent their resolutions and recommendations.

28. A significant number of representatives of non-governmental organizations are expected to be present in New York during the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. The secretariat will provide basic facilities, such as meeting rooms, secretarial support, office equipment and communications.

29. In order to facilitate the input of the non-governmental organizations into the official process, some workshops will take place on the main issues under consideration, and some mechanisms will be established to link the official and non-governmental organization processes.

Contribution of women

30. Several major events on issues related to women and the environment have taken place in different parts of the world. The Global Assembly of Women and the Environment and Women in a Healthy Planet (November 1991) deserve special recognition for the substantive and world-wide representation in their discussions.

Contribution of indigenous peoples

31. The representation of indigenous peoples has also increased, as has their interest in having their voices heard during the official preparatory meetings. Papers reflecting their views on specific technical issues, such as biodiversity, technology transfer and land use, as well as on the need to review present development patterns, have been greatly appreciated by the secretariat. In addition, the indigenous peoples of Brazil are preparing several events that will emphasize the virtues and values of their style of life.

Third World Participation Fund

32. With the support of Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America, this Fund will continue to operate during the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee and the Conference. At least 100 participants from the South will be able to attend the fourth session through this Fund.

Other funding for non-governmental organizations

33. The Ford Foundation, the Mott Foundation, World Wildlife Fund International, the Rockefeller Foundation and Ecofund have been strong supporters of the whole non-governmental organization operation and the specific services and activities which the secretariat has been able to provide during the preparatory process.

3. Public information activities

34. The programme of public information for the Conference is carried out in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations secretariat, to which budgetary resources were allocated for this purpose.

35. A Conference media and information office is attached to the Geneva secretariat, and a second one has been created in connection with the New York office. A new series of background booklets has been developed. They appear under the title "Earth Summit Publications" and cover basic reference and question-and-answer material, as well as selected speeches. Some are available in French and Spanish. The "Earth Summit News" has been revised and now appears more frequently, in the form of loosely assembled fact sheets with news stories, features and updates on various Conference and other environment and development activities.

36. In December the Earth Pledge was officially launched during a special ceremony at the United Nations in New York. A number of United Nations organizations assist in the distribution of the Pledge. A special effort is maintained to encourage media and public organizations to participate in its promotion.

37. Robert Rauschenberg, the American artist, has created a special painting, unveiled at the Earth Pledge ceremony, entitled "Last Turn, Your Turn". The poster produced of this painting has become the offical Conference poster.

38. The Hague Symposium, a conference of non-governmental organizations in Paris and the International Conference on Water and the Environment, held at Dublin, were covered by the media and information office, with special emphasis on developing and reinforcing contacts with journalists.

39. Numerous print, film, music and other promotional projects have been completed or are in progress, either in cooperation with partners in other United Nations organizations or with independent producers/promoters.

E. Information system

40. The dissemination of information produced at the Conference via electronic means has increased considerably. Increasing numbers of delegations, as well as non-governmental organizations and partners in United Nations organizations are using this method for fast access to Conference information.

41. In the secretariat a number of efforts have been under way to present the information contained in Agenda 21, as well as in the national reports, in other than printed form. A database has been developed, which allows rapid access to the contents of Agenda 21, by programme area, objective, activity and a number of other descriptors. This database is available to delegations

at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. Additional tools are also being developed to make the use of this database simpler for those who do not have computer experience. Prototypes are also available at the fourth session and a final version will be available by June 1992.

42. The secretariat is also putting together a plan to support the Conference with sophisticated computerized registration, communications and other office automation facilities. Negotiations are now under way with suppliers of hardware and information technology in this regard, and a detailed report will be made available at the fourth session in an information document.

43. Plans are well under way for setting up a communications and information system to support the non-governmental organizations, both at the official site and at the Global Forum. This activity is being led by Ibase/AlterNex, a Brazilian non-governmental organization. The non-governmental organization facility will be fully connected to the facility at the official Conference site to ensure appropriate communications between the two.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES: VOLUNTARY AND TRUST FUNDS

A. Voluntary Fund for Supporting Developing Countries in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its Preparatory Process

44. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 45/211 and 45/248 A of 21 December 1990 decided that payment should be made from the Voluntary Fund for the travel expenses of representatives of the developing countries and, on an exceptional basis, that a daily subsistence allowance should be paid to representatives of the least developed countries to enable them to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process. A number of Governments have contributed to the Fund and these resources were utilized to fund the participation of developing countries at previous sessions of the Preparatory Committee. As at 31 October 1991, $1,500,000 had been pledged or contributed to the Voluntary Fund and utilized as follows:

	United States dollars
Amount contributed/pledged	1 500 000
Total used at first, second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee	1 000 000
Balance available as at 31 October	500 000
Amount required for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee	700 000
Balance (shortfall)	(200 000)
Amount required for Conference	500 000
Overall shortfall	(700 000)

45. As indicated, the Voluntary Fund as at 31 October had a balance of $500,000 as against the $700,000 required to finance the participation of the developing countries at the present session. The funds will be utilized on a first-come first-served basis until they are exhausted. In addition, the cost of financing the participation of the same countries at the Conference is estimated at $500,000, for which there is no funding at present.

46. The Voluntary Fund has fully proved its usefulness by permitting an increasing number of developing countries to participate in the Preparatory Committee. Those requesting funding increased from only 30 at the first session, in Nairobi, to 115 at the third session, in Geneva. In view of the importance of the issues being discussed by the Preparatory Committee and the Conference, it is expected that approximately 140 countries will seek funding. It will be a great disappointment for them and very damaging to the principle of universality of the Conference if, at this late stage, the representation of all countries cannot be ensured at the current session of the Preparatory Committee and at the Conference itself.

B. Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47. The other fund from which resources have been made available to enable the secretariat to carry out a number of programme activities in support of the preparatory process is the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

48. Current records show that an amount of $10,970,000 was contributed or pledged to the Fund as at 31 October 1991, out of which it was expected that expenditures of $6,400,000 would be incurred by the end of 1991. The exact level of expenditure will be known in February 1992, following the closure of the accounts of the biennium 1990-1991. Meanwhile, it is estimated that there will be a balance of $4,570,000, from which to finance the activities of the secretariat only through May, as a result of the heightened level of expenditure arising from the intensification of pre-Conference activities.

49. Furthermore, it should be noted that the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session approved the continuation of secretariat activities in 1992 until 30 September and the retention of a small core of staff until 31 December. It has authorized funding of $3.3 million from the regular budget for this purpose. However, this is in support only of that part of the Conference work programme funded from the regular budget. The recognition by the General Assembly of the need for post-Conference activities should also be extended to the part of the Conference work programme funded from voluntary contributions. That expenditure having been estimated at $5.5 million, the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities will need additional contributions of $1 million to provide enough resources to carry out post-Conference activities until 30 September 1992.

50. Thus, the Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities are in need of additional contributions in the amounts of $700,000 and $1 million, respectively. The secretariat is grateful to the countries whose contributions have enabled it thus far to carry out many of the preparatory activities. The secretariat appeals once more to their generosity, as well as to those countries that have not yet contributed to the Voluntary Fund but are in a position to help, to consider making a contribution to make up for the shortfall in the two funds and to fulfil, in a proper and timely manner, the mandate of the Conference.

51. Final needs will depend on the decisions of the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session and on the recommendations of the Conference itself.

The countries from which contributions and pledges have so far been received for the Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund are listed below:

Status of the Voluntary and Trust Funds as at end July 1991

Donor	Voluntary Fund		Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities	
	Pledge	Contribution	Pledge	Contribution
	(US dollars)		(US dollars)	
Member States				
Austria	-	50 000	73 700	78 600
Canada	75 000	50 000	644 000	381 000
Cyprus	-	500	-	-
Denmark	100 000	-	-	25 000
Finland	-	200 000	-	482 000
France	-	50 000	-	-
Italy	-	-	-	235 600
Japan	110 000	-	1 390 000	-
Myanmar	-	500	-	-
Netherlands	-	100 000	-	1 428 000
Norway	-	300 000	-	955 000
Singapore	-	50 000	-	-
Sweden	-	200 000	-	3 000 000
Switzerland	47 000	-	54 000	-
United Kingdom	-	55 000	18 500	242 500
Others				
Business Council for Sustainable Development	-	-	-	20 500
European Community	20 000	100 000	-	-
ECOFUND-92	-	-	500 000	222 500
Ito Yokado	-	-	-	200 000
UNDP	-	-	200 000	100 000
UNFPA	-	-	-	265 700
UNIFEM	-	-	190 000	249 600
UNICEF	-	-	-	14 000
Total	352 000	1 156 000	3 070 200	7 900 000

/...

52. Contributions in the form of funds, equipment or staff services in support of the activities of the Trust Fund have also been pledged by or received from the Government of Canada, the Rockefeller Foundation, ECOFUND-92, the Ito Yokado Chain Store of Japan, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

53. Some corporations and agencies have contributed funds and services through ECOFUND-92 in support of the Conference. To date they are as follows: American Conservation Association, Asahi Glass Foundation, Atlantic Richfield Corporation, Ford Foundation, German Marshall Fund, International Institute for Sustainable Development, MacArthur Foundation, Minnesota Manufacturing and Mining Corporation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Rockefeller Foundation.

54. The special fund for the activities of non-governmental organizations has received contributions/pledges of $100,000 from Canada, $50,000 from Denmark, $25,000 from Norway and $30,000 from the Ford Foundation.

55. A contribution of $A 100,000 has been committed by the Government of Australia to the South Pacific Regional and Environment Programme in support of the participation of countries of the Pacific area in the Conference process.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.151/PC/97/Corr.1
16 March 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Plenary session
Agenda item 2 (a)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Corrigendum

Page 13, paragraph 54

For the existing text, substitute the following:

54. The special fund for the activities of non-governmental organizations has received contributions/pledges of $100,000 from Canada, $50,000 from Denmark, $25,000 from Norway, $30,000 from the Ford Foundation and $30,000 from Rissho Kosei-Kai.

92-12080 3723a (E) 160392 170392

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.151/PC/97/Add.1
4 March 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Agenda item 2 (a)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Introductory statement made by the Secretary-General of the Conference at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee

I join with you, Mr. Chairman, and I know with all distinguished delegates, in welcoming our eminent Secretary-General and extending our deep gratitude for his interest in and commitment to your work and to the goals of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as evidenced by his valuable and enlightened statement. His leadership and his support mean a very great deal to us and will be indispensable to the success of our common task.

With the beginning of this fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, we have entered the final stages of preparations for the Conference, which, three months from today, will be under way in Rio de Janeiro. I know that I need not stress to you the importance of the work you must undertake, and complete, during the next five weeks. The task you face is a formidable one, but with the constructive spirit of cooperation and compromise that this Committee has manifested in its work to date, and with the full commitment of all its members to the success of our common efforts, I am confident that it is achievable. I can assure you that your secretariat will do everything possible to facilitate and support your efforts.

Let me make some observations which I hope may be helpful to you as you begin your work.

The task of preparing the documents you required of us for this session was a monumental one and the task you have faced in reviewing them has been equally so. The documentation is extensive and in many respects complex, reflecting as it does the broad range of issues that this Committee has to address to fulfil the mandate given to it by the General Assembly in resolution 44/228. Much of it consists of documents prepared by others at the request of the General Assembly or the Preparatory Committee.

I should like to comment briefly on the principal agenda areas you will be addressing.

The consolidated draft of the Earth Charter (A/CONF.151/PC/WG.III/L.8/Rev.1) presents a compendium of the proposals made by delegations. In the aggregate, they provide a rich variety of ideas as to both the form and the content of this important instrument. But the task of distilling from this a relatively short list of agreed principles will demand a concerted effort. In light of the heavy demands on Working Group III at this final session, I should like to suggest that a special subgroup be set up to facilitate negotiations on the Charter and ensure that these can be completed successfully in the relatively short time we have to do this.

The draft of Agenda 21 (A/CONF.151/PC/100 and Add.1-27) constitutes the core of the work before you. When negotiated, it will represent the principal outcome of the Conference. Each chapter is the product of an extensive work process to which the relevant United Nations agencies, organizations and programmes as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional conferences and national reports, have contributed in accordance with the guidance and direction provided by the Preparatory Committee and its Working Groups. The series of working parties established at the secretariat level for this purpose has worked extremely well and in my view provides a valuable model for the work that must continue following the Conference.

Underlying the development of Agenda 21 is the basic premise that the issues it addresses are systemic in nature and cannot be effectively managed without taking account of the cause and effect linkages among them. Agenda 21 is designed to facilitate this process and provide the basic framework for and guide to integrated programme development and decision-making in the post-Rio period. It should be borne in mind that the development of Agenda 21 is part of a process of integrating environment and development that began with the Stockholm Conference in 1972 and was given special focus and impetus by the recommendations of the Brundtland Commission. It also builds on the experience and insights of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as on the development agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental sources. Similarly, it must continue to be seen following Rio as the centre-piece of an ongoing process of coordination, monitoring, review and revision.

The Agenda 21 documents must be further shaped and completed by this final session of the Preparatory Committee. As you have received them, the Agenda 21 documents reflect the current state of analysis and capacities for

action; therefore some action proposals are much more fully developed and defined than others. In some cases, time constraints have limited our ability to absorb and fully reflect all available contributions to our professional work. My secretariat colleagues will therefore make available, through the Chairman of each Working Group, supplementary information which you may wish to consider. One of the primary tasks you face in this final session is to determine goals, targets, allocation of institutional responsibilities and priorities for immediate action. While the documents before you provide the basis for this, it nevertheless represents a demanding task.

It is, of course, desirable to agree on specific language to the maximum extent possible, and some encouraging progress was made in this respect at the third session of the Preparatory Committee, in Geneva. But I should like to suggest that it is not necessary for this Committee to write the entire Agenda 21 in "tablets of stone". My point is that if Agenda 21 is to provide the framework for continuing action after Rio, its chapters will need to be negotiated with the expectation that they will be subject to follow-up and review on a continuing basis in the post-Rio period.

We are preparing an information guide which presents the contents of Agenda 21 in a summary form within the context of its principal substantive themes. A preliminary version of this is available here. It will, of course, be modified to take into account the decisions in respect of Agenda 21 taken at the present session.

At the end of this session I would hope that the Committee can agree on a single decision recommending to the Conference its acceptance of Agenda 21 as the agreed programme of environment and development action by the international community in the post-Rio period, and commend it for necessary further action to the Governments, international agencies and organizations that will have primary responsibility for implementing it.

You will recall that we were asked to cost the action proposals included in Agenda 21 and the results of this are contained in the documents. Let me point out, however, that this does not represent a "budget" for Agenda 21. It would not have been feasible to develop estimates in sufficient detail to permit presentation of a budget. The aggregate figure of about $125 billion per year, which is derived from costing of individual programmes, must therefore be seen as indicative of the orders of magnitude of external concessional funding that would be required by developing countries for full implementation of Agenda 21. This is some $70 billion in excess of existing official development assistance (ODA) flows of about $55 billion per year. It is important to recognize that most of the costs - some four to five times $125 billion - would have to be provided by developing countries themselves. External funding would therefore cover only a modest portion of these costs but will be of critical importance in complementing and supporting developing country efforts. I realize, of course, that it will be extremely difficult both for developing and for donor countries to reach these levels in the short term. But in Rio de Janeiro we must make a significant start.

The issue of new and additional financial resources is critical to the success of the Conference. We have been doing everything possible to facilitate the process of consideration by Governments and consultation amongst them on this important matter, and I very much hope that countries members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), in particular, will be especially forthcoming in their position on it at this final session. While I do not intend to present firm recommendations of my own in this respect, I do feel it might be useful to share with you some of the views I have formed as a result of my consultations, which may facilitate agreement at Rio on new and additional financial resources.

The estimated order of magnitude figure of $70 billion a year of additional assistance to developing countries represents more than a doubling of existing levels of ODA. I realize that under today's conditions, this is not politically realistic in terms of appealing to donors for more "foreign aid" in traditional terms. Yet it is not a high price-tag if seen in terms of global environmental security. There is also compelling evidence that the costs of action are far less than the costs of inaction in terms of effects on human health, degradation of natural resources and remedial costs. To put it in perspective, $125 billion is less than 1 per cent of current levels of gross national product (GNP) of the principal donor countries and less than some of the most generous of them are already providing. It also compares with the some $1,000 billion being devoted to military expenditures. Environmental "costs" are more in the nature of investments in maintaining the natural capital stock of societies. At a time when Governments are concerned about the economic implications of reducing military expenditures, they should examine the important potential of environmental investments, both domestic and international, for economic revitalization, job creation and redeployment of research and development capacities.

Nevertheless, it would not be realistic to expect under current conditions of economic difficulty and budgetary constraints that new funds of the magnitude required to meet all Agenda 21 needs could be immediately forthcoming. What is needed is a substantial initial commitment of new and additional resources, which represents an important and concrete step towards meeting overall needs, accompanied by the establishment of a continuing process through which these needs can be met over reasonable periods of time. This would permit the immediate launching of Agenda 21 and related activities in respect of climate change and biodiversity that will ultimately be provided for in the conventions now under negotiation. Such an initial commitment would need to be of the order of several billions of dollars per year to permit an effective start on the implementation of Agenda 21.

It would also need to be accompanied by the enunciation of some basic principles that should underlie the financial arrangements in respect of global conventions that place non-discretionary obligations on developing countries.

It seems to be broadly recognized that new funds cannot all flow through any single channel. A package of immediate measures is required. A number of proposals have been made on what such a package might include:

(a) Proposals have been made for the establishment of new funds linked to Agenda 21, notably the proposal of China and the Group of 77 for a Green Fund. At the same time there is a strong preference on the part of some to use existing institutions, at least as a starting point, in particular through replenishment of a modified Global Environment Facility (GEF) at something of the order of three or four times its current funding level to finance the incremental costs to developing countries of meeting important global environmental priorities. This would, of course, require agreement on changes in the provisions for governance of GEF and on its mandate. I am pleased to note the progress being made in this respect. However, as GEF would, in any event, fund only a portion of Agenda 21, most increased funding for it will need to come through other channels. In particular, this would apply to financing of development and poverty-related issues, based on a credible commitment to a specific timetable for attainment of widely accepted targets;

(b) The current negotiations on replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA) provides a very good opportunity in this respect. The inclusion of a significant component of new funds as an "Earth increment" in the current round of replenishment would enable IDA to meet important development needs identified in Agenda 21. The Agenda 21 proposals dealing with poverty and related issues such as health and education, land, water, forestry and human settlements, provide a useful basis for this. Similarly, "Earth increments" could be added to the funds available to other funding "windows" and organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the regional development banks and bilateral programmes;

(c) Given the important emphasis that virtually all developing countries have placed on technology transfer and the need to strengthen their professional and institutional capacities, additional funding also needs to be provided for these purposes. While such funding must come from a number of multilateral and bilateral sources, it would be logical to have some significant new funding concentrated in UNDP to enable it to take a lead in respect of technology transfer and capacity-building. This would be supplemented perhaps by a consultative group, similar to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), to facilitate the mobilizing and deploying of funds from other sources required to meet this critically important need;

(d) Increased support for the Fund of UNEP, the budgets of other United Nations agencies and organizations and regional commissions to enable them to carry out their respective important roles in implementing Agenda 21;

(e) Increased bilateral assistance, which may include important new unilateral initiatives on the part of individual countries;

(f) A large-scale programme of debt reduction directly related to helping developing countries meet their needs for the implementation of Agenda 21;

(g) Special incentives for private investment in sustainable development;

(h) Mobilization of voluntary private support for the programmes of non-governmental organizations.

There have also been some interesting proposals for new and innovative means of financing. One that would seem to hold particular promise is the issuance of tradeable emission permits. Proposals have also been made for taxes, fees or user charges to be levied on particular products, services and/or transactions to give effect to the "polluter-pays" principle. Utilizing part of the proceeds of a carbon or energy tax to meet international needs has also been proposed. Political consensus has not yet developed to the point required to achieve agreement at Rio on implementation of these measures. But this consensus will, I hope, crystallize so that these measures may receive strong support and impetus at Rio.

The package of measures to meet the need for new and additional financial resources should be accompanied by a strengthening of the processes of coordinating the mobilization and deployment of these resources. This could be done by using issue-based consultative forums to complement the existing system of consultative groups and round tables. The United Nations system could play a lead in this process.

Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita of Japan and Mr. Gaishi Hiraiwa, Chairman of the principal industrial association of Japan, Keidanren, will be hosting a high-level meeting in Tokyo shortly after the present session of the Preparatory Committee to lend guidance and support to international efforts to mobilize the financial resources required to give effect to the decisions taken at the Earth Summit. I very much welcome this timely and promising initiative.

I am convinced that a review of the existing economic policies and the systems of incentives and penalties by which Governments, in both industrialized and developing countries, motivate the economic behaviour of their people and corporations, including agricultural and other subsidies, would reveal the extent to which they, however unintentionally, have the effect of providing incentives for environmentally unsound and unsustainable behaviour, while imposing immense costs on consumers and taxpayers. I would hope that at Rio Governments will agree to carry out such reviews and to reorient their policies and fiscal, tax and subsidy systems so as to provide positive incentives to sustainable development. Document A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.8 outlines the potential for the use of economic instruments to achieve these purposes. At the same time, such reviews will, I am sure, demonstrate how most needs for environmental expenditures could be met through redeployment of existing resources.

Successful completion of the current round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will also have a critically important effect on the Conference and the prospects both for its success and for the implementation of its results. Strengthening

the international trading system would generate new financial resources for both industrialized and developing countries, while a breakdown of negotiations would have a negative effect on the system of international cooperation on which the results of the Earth Summit will depend. At the same time, the inclusion of the environmental dimension in GATT negotiations must be used to ensure that the functioning of the international trading system contributes positively to sustainable development and is not used to impose unfair and unilateral constraints on the trade of developing countries. Indeed, if developing countries had totally free access to the markets of the industrialized world, they could earn much of what they require to finance their own development.

In the final analysis, the question of meeting the costs of saving the Earth is one of political will and priorities. The nations and people of our planet must be prepared to accept global environmental security as an important, indeed indispensable priority. For if we do not succeed in moving to a sustainable pathway in our economic life, our future will be at risk in both economic and environmental terms. The threats to the Earth's environment and its life-support systems represent the ultimate security risk. The costs of averting these risks are modest in relation to the amounts we have been spending, and will continue to spend, on traditional military security. At the same time, meeting these costs holds great potential for revitalization of economic growth and development. What is needed is a change in our political mind-set and in the ordering of our priorities. This is what must happen at Rio if we are to succeed in meeting the goals the General Assembly has set for the Conference.

As to technology transfer, I have already referred to the importance of capacity-building, which is one of the most important elements of the package of technology transfer and cooperation proposals included in documents A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.9-11. I believe these provide a sound basis for a decision by the Preparatory Committee on this important issue, which is so closely linked to that of new and additional financial resources. A promising prospect in this field is opened up by the decision taken by a Conference of African States, held in Algeria in February 1992, to establish an African Agency for Biotechnology.

You will also be considering the question of institutional mechanisms within the United Nations following the Conference. There seems to be a strong consensus that the emphasis should be on strengthening the existing agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and the mechanisms to ensure their cooperation and coordination.

The proposals presented to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme provide a basis for examining the particular ways in which UNEP can best be strengthened as the primary focal point for environment leadership of the United Nations system. It is, of course, most important that this be done in the context of the need for closer integration of environment and development activities throughout the system.

Any new institutional arrangements within the United Nations must also take account of the fact that other agencies and organizations, including non-governmental organizations, are now prime actors in the environment field, as well as in environment-related development activities. UNDP is already funding environment-related projects at a level several times greater than the total budget of UNEP, and the aggregate environment-related budgets of other United Nations agencies and organizations are several times those of UNEP. This underscores the need for closer cooperation among them and for measures that recognize the importance of their environment-related programmes in implementing Agenda 21, as well as for making them more accountable for the environmental dimensions of their programmes. Here, UNEP might play a particularly important role.

But this can be done effectively only in conjunction with much closer linkages between environment and development activities throughout the United Nations system. It is in this area that a need for strengthened institutional arrangements is becoming increasingly apparent. Above all, the momentum generated by the UNCED process should not be lost. Some kind of monitoring and review process is essential. It is important, however, that the post-Rio review process apply to all countries, industrial and developing, as well as the United Nations system and other agencies and organizations involved in the implementation of Agenda 21.

Of particular importance is the need to provide for an intergovernmental body, within the United Nations, to review progress in carrying out the decisions taken at the Conference, particularly in respect of Agenda 21, to provide broad policy guidance to Governments as well as direction to the United Nations system, and to facilitate coordination with respect to these and related matters. This need might be met by reconstituting the mandate of an existing body, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development or it could take the form of a new body, such as a commission similar to the Commission on Human Rights or the Commission on Narcotics Drugs, as some have suggested, or a committee of the General Assembly or of the Economic and Social Council. Whatever mechanism is selected for these purposes, provision could be made for regular meetings at the ministerial level and, perhaps, even at the summit level.

Such an institutional mechanism will need to be structured in such a way as to give effect to the global partnership that I hope will emerge from the Earth Summit. This means it would need to provide a framework for guidance and review of the ongoing processes of negotiation that must take place in the various relevant forums between donors and recipients in respect of the allocation and utilization of new and additional financial resources. Implementation of the concept of "partners in additionality" would involve contracts or compacts between developing countries and donors to ensure that developing countries have access to additional resources on a predictable basis over time under conditions to which they agree, not conditions that are unilaterally imposed.

Any intergovernmental body would need to be served by a secretariat that would perform functions in the post-Rio period comparable to those that have been performed by the Conference secretariat in preparation for the Conference. Of course, all of this will have to be done in the larger context of the important changes now taking place in the United Nations Secretariat and the measures for further restructuring now being considered at both the intergovernmental and secretariat levels. Indeed, there have been some suggestions that the initial institutional arrangements for follow-up of the Conference be interim in nature, subject to further review in the light of overall decisions on restructuring.

But the structure of any such review and follow-up mechanisms is perhaps less important than the need to ensure that they have the capacity to perform their functions effectively. Assigning the responsibility for follow-up of Rio to an entity or entities that lack such capacity would be akin to sending it to the "Dead Letter Office".

Another important point that has also arisen in some of my discussions with Governments is the need for provision to be made for a high-level intergovernmental review of the implementation of the decisions taken at the Earth Summit after a period of three or four years. This could take the form of a special high-level session of the intergovernmental body with responsibility for review and coordination, or a special session of the General Assembly.

It is of paramount importance to bear in mind the fact that all the institutional arrangements that may be put in place at the international level are designed to meet the needs and requirements of member countries to provide support for their national policies and actions and to establish the basis for international cooperation in respect of actions that can only or best be taken in concert with others. For it is at the national level and at the regional level that most actions take place and where the primary decisions on goals and priorities are taken.

Thus, the ultimate test of the success of Rio and the efficacy of Agenda 21 will be the extent to which they are translated into changed policies and practices within countries to effect the transition, each in its own way, to sustainable development. This surely means that it would be important at Rio for each Government to commit itself to translate the decisions of the Conference into a "National Agenda 21" - programmes and policies designed to give effect in each country to the decisions made at Rio. Governments will also wish to ensure that United Nations agencies and organizations, and other intergovernmental organizations integrate the Earth Summit decisions into their programmes. It would be particularly important that World Bank consultative groups and UNDP roundtables integrate the provisions of Agenda 21 into their mandates and activities and that regional organizations do the same.

Mr. Jean Ripert, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change, will report to you this afternoon on the current status of the negotiations on that Convention following the fifth session of the Committee (New York, 18-28 February 1992). We shall also hear a report on the status of the negotiations on the Convention on Biological Diversity by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention, Ambassador Sánchez. Both of these negotiations are in their final critical stages and, while in each case important issues remain unresolved, there is still reason to hope that framework conventions will be available for signature at Rio.

Encouraging progress has been made in negotiating the forestry principles. If existing differences can be resolved, these could provide a basis for agreement at Rio on the establishment of a negotiating process following the Conference.

I should also like to commend to your attention the proposal made at the African Ministerial Meeting at Abidjan in November 1991 that a convention be negotiated on desertification, which is such a critically important issue for a number of developing countries, especially in Africa. This would be a very timely and valuable means of ensuring that desertification is accorded the priority it deserves.

A total of 120 national reports have now been received. They are of impressive quality and represent a uniquely valuable contribution to the preparatory process. A substantial number were received in time to enable us to take them into account in the preparation of our documents for the present session, and we have made available an overview of our analysis of the principal elements of these reports (see A/CONF.151/PC/98). The reports contain so much valuable information that we should like to do everything possible to see that they get the widest possible circulation, including the preparation of a special publication based on them. I also understand from many of the Governments concerned that the process of preparing them has been an extremely valuable one. Indeed, it may be useful to consider periodic updates as part of the ongoing process of reviewing the implementation of Agenda 21.

This Committee has, as you know, agreed on modalities for the participation of non-governmental organizations in its meetings and in the Conference itself. I am pleased to say that more than 1,000 non-governmental organizations have now been accredited or have applied for accreditation under these arrangements and the participation of developing countries has increased substantially. Organizations and civil society groups from the Commonwealth of Independent States and Eastern and Central Europe are also participating fully. Participation by non-governmental organizations is broadly representative of both traditional and non-traditional groups and constituencies, including scientists, women, indigenous people, religious organizations, professional associations, trade unions, business and industry, parliamentarians, local authorities, youth, children and many others. They have made extremely important substantive contributions to our preparatory

work, and their own preparations have been accompanied by an immense amount of activity - seminars, conferences and special study and dialogue processes.

A series of regular interactive briefing sessions/presentations is being scheduled during the present session of the Preparatory Committee; on 10 March, the Business Council for Sustainable Development will be giving a briefing on technology cooperation. I have had the privilege of meeting with many of these groups throughout the world and have been greatly encouraged and deeply moved by some of these experiences, including my meetings with indigenous peoples in Brazil and participation in the Women's Congress in Miami as well as in some of the public forums held in various regions of the world by the International Facilitating Committee.

The International Facilitating Committee has undertaken the challenging task of preparing a Global Forum in Rio de Janeiro as the focal point for a broad range of non-governmental events to coincide with the Earth Summit. But they urgently need further support to ensure completion of this task, which will make what I regard as an indispensable contribution to the whole Earth Summit experience.

As you know, the arrangements for participation by non-governmental organizations do not provide for their inclusion in the negotiations that are carried out among Governments. As this final session of the Preparatory Committee will consist almost entirely of negotiating sessions, non-governmental organizations will be denied their valuable contribution to your work if they are entirely excluded from these meetings. Accordingly, I hope that every effort will be made to facilitate their attendance as observers at these sessions to the extent possible, while making provision for closed sessions when necessary.

The entire UNCED experience has underscored the increasingly important role of non-governmental organizations, not only in the contributions they can make to such international consultative processes as UNCED, but also in their substantial capacities for carrying out the programmes and operations that will make them prime actors in implementing Agenda 21. There are also a host of new and non-traditional groups and organizations, particularly in developing countries, which existing accreditation arrangements do not adequately take into account. The UNCED process has pointed up the need for a review and strengthening of existing arrangements for relating non-governmental organizations to the United Nations. I hope that this Preparatory Committee will recommend to the Conference that these arrangements be reviewed to take account of the many changes that have occurred affecting the role of non-governmental organizations and their relationship with the United Nations.

As you will note, the pace of our programme of public information and awareness concerning the Conference has accelerated and will continue to do so right up until the Conference itself. The centre-piece of these activities is the Earth Pledge, and, as you know, I am inviting your Governments to facilitate the widest possible dissemination of this within your countries. I

should like to record our special gratitude to the non-governmental and media organizations, as well as corporations, that have lent their support and assistance to this campaign. I hope that each of you will also give it your support by signing the Earth Pledge during the present session.

In Brazil itself, preparations for hosting the Conference are proceeding apace. You will be receiving a briefing on this tomorrow. But I remain confident that the arrangements being provided by our Brazilian hosts both at the Rio Conference Centre itself and in the many other related activities being carried out in Rio de Janeiro and elsewhere will ensure a welcome that is fully in accord with the finest traditions of Brazilian hospitality and the historic nature of the Conference itself. I am deeply grateful for the full cooperation we have received from our Brazilian hosts at the levels of the federal Government and the state and city governments of Rio de Janeiro, as well as the many other Brazilian organizations that are contributing to making the Earth Summit one of the most memorable events ever.

I want to extend my deep thanks to all those who have contributed to the Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing country representatives in the present session of the Preparatory Committee, as well as to our Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities and to ECOFUND-92. These voluntary contributions have been indispensable to our work. At the same time, I should like to appeal to Governments for their additional generous support to the Voluntary Fund to permit developing country participation in the Conference itself at Rio. In order to be available in time to enable countries to utilize it, we would need to have the funds in hand no later than 1 May 1992.

A number of Governments have brought to our attention the fact that the two final days of the Conference, which have been designated especially for events involving the participation of heads of Government, could coincide in part with the Eide, the holiest occasion on the Islamic calendar. Accordingly, you will need to consider changes in these dates to facilitate participation of as many leaders as possible in the Summit events.

Each of the issues on which I have touched and the many others that will demand your attention during the next five weeks must be resolved at this final session if leaders of your Governments are to have before them when they meet at Rio a set of clear, well-developed and agreed recommendations on which they can base the important decisions they must take there. It will not be feasible to leave issues unresolved on the expectation that they can be dealt with at Rio. The small amount of negotiating time that might be available there will have to be reserved for the one or two critical issues that must by their nature be kept open until then.

The work you do here will provide the basis for the decisions to be taken at Rio, which would unite all nations and people, East, West, North and South in a new global partnership. Accordingly, the success of the Earth Summit in establishing the basis for this new global partnership will depend directly on the success you achieve at this final session of the Preparatory Committee.

That success will not come easily, but, as we begin our sessions today, I am confident that it is achievable. I am equally confident that the commitment, the good will and the skills of the representatives assembled here, manifesting the political will of their Governments, will ensure the successful completion of the work that began here just two years ago. You will thus have established the foundations for a historic success in Rio in producing the new global partnership that will set the world community on to a new course to a more sustainable, secure and equitable future as we move into the twenty-first century. The success of the Earth Summit is thus in a very real sense in your hands.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.151/PC/97/Add.2
10 March 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND DEVELOPMENT
Fourth session
New York, 2 March-3 April 1992
Plenary session
Agenda item 2 (a)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 44/228 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS: ACTIVITIES OF THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Report of the Secretary-General of the Conference

Addendum

I. VOLUNTARY FUND FOR SUPPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Preparatory Committee with an updated status report on the financial situation under the Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities for the Conference in light of the final accounts of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 and new contributions that have been received since the preparation of document A/CONF.151/PC/97.

2. As at mid-February 1992 the financial situation of the Voluntary Fund may be summarized as follows:

	United States dollars
Amount contributed/pledged	1 609 800
Total used at first, second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee	712 000
Balance available as of mid-February	897 800
Amount required for the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee	700 000
Balance	197 800
Amount required for the Conference	500 000
Shortfall	(302 200)

3. The above table indicates that the Voluntary Fund, after funding the participation of developing countries at the present session of the Preparatory Committee would have a balance of $197,800. However, as the cost of financing the participation of developing countries at the Conference is presently estimated at $500,000, this results in a projected shortfall of $302,200, which would need to be made up through additional contributions to the Voluntary Fund. Should this funding not be available, it is proposed that the needs of the least developed countries be funded in priority and subsequently those of the developing countries on a first-come first-served basis until exhaustion of the remaining funds.

II. TRUST FUND FOR PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONFERENCE

4. The other fund from which resources have been made available to enable the Conference secretariat to carry out a number of activities in support of the preparatory process is the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities. Its financial status as at mid-February may be summarized as follows:

	United States dollars
Amount contributed/pledged	10 857 000
Total utilized in 1990-1991	6 541 000
Balance as at mid-February 1992	4 316 000
Amount required until 31 July 1992	4 910 000
Shortfall	(594 000)

5. The amount of $4,316,000 presently available will be sufficient to continue the activities of the secretariat which are funded from the Trust Fund until end May 1992 only. However, it appears more desirable that these activities be allowed to continue until July 1992. This would correspond to the period provided for by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for the secretariat to complete its substantive activities. The cost of the extension of that part of the secretariat funded from extrabudgetary resources until 31 July 1992 is estimated at $594,000 for which additional contributions to the Trust Fund would be required.

6. It should also be noted that the General Assembly provided funding for the retention of a small core of staff until 31 December 1992 in order to carry out follow-up activities in the post-Conference period. The recognition by the General Assembly of the need for post-Conference activities, at a reduced level, should also be extended to the activities funded from the Trust Fund. Should this be recommended by the Preparatory Committee, the terms of reference of the Trust Fund would need to be amended accordingly. That would give rise to the need of additional contributions of $493,000.

7. The Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities would thus be in need of additional contributions in the amounts of $302,000 and $1,087,000 respectively.

8. An updated table of contributions and pledges is attached.

Status of the Voluntary and Trust Funds as at mid-February 1992

Donor	Voluntary Fund		Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities	
	Pledge	Contribution	Pledge	Contribution
	(US dollars)		(US dollars)	
Member States				
Austria	-	50 000	-	148 000
Canada	-	150 000	531 300	493 700
Cyprus	-	500	-	-
Denmark	-	100 000	-	25 000
Finland	-	200 000	-	482 000
France	-	34 700	-	-
Germany	-	100 000	-	-
Greece	-	-	-	12 000
Italy	-	-	-	235 600
Japan	-	100 000	300 000	1 090 100
Myanmar	-	500	-	-
Netherlands	-	100 000	-	1 428 000
Norway	-	300 000	-	955 000
Singapore	-	50 000	-	-
Sweden	-	200 000	-	3 000 000
Switzerland	-	49 100	54 000	-
United Kingdom	-	55 000	98 100	242 500
Others				
Business Council for Sustainable Development	-	-	-	20 500
European Community	20 000	100 000	-	-
ECOFUND-92	-	-	161 400	434 500
Ito Yokado	-	-	-	200 000
UNDP	-	-	210 000	90 000
UNFPA	-	-	-	213 200
UNIFEM	-	-	168 400	249 600
UNICEF	-	-	-	14 000
Total	20 000	1 589 800	1 523 200	9 333 700